

Checklist to use when shopping for an Afterschool program:

Look and Listen:

- _____ * Does the program seem clean, safe and organized?
- _____ * Do children and youth appear to be happy in the program?
- _____ * Does staff seem to work well together?
- _____ * Is staff respectful of each other?
- _____ * Are the children busy with activities?
- _____ * Do the children help each other and cooperate?
- _____ * Do you hear happy sounds in the program?
- _____ * Are staff engaged in activities and conversation with the children and youth?
- _____ * Are there adequate materials and space for a variety of activities?
- _____ * Are there quiet, soft spaces for reading, quiet games and relaxing as well as space for active play?
- _____ * Do the materials and program space reflect diversity?
- _____ * Does the space reflect the work and interests of the children and youth in the program?
- _____ * Does the program provide a rich learning atmosphere that supports children's education?
- _____ * Is the playground area safe? Is it fenced in? Is there some kind of cushioning material under climbing equipment?
- _____ * Does the bathroom look and smell clean?
- _____ * Are there adequate supplies?
- _____ * Are all hazardous materials kept out of reach of children and youth?
- _____ * Do food preparation areas look and smell clean?

NOTES:

Ask The Children:

- _____ * Do you like coming here?
- _____ * Are you able to choose what activities you want to do and with whom?
- _____ * Do you help plan activities?
- _____ * Do the children here get along well with each other?
- _____ * Do you feel safe here?

NOTES:

Ask The Director:

- _____ *Are you aware of national quality standards?
- _____ *Do you have a list of family references I can contact?
- _____ *Is the program licensed?
- _____ *Is the program accredited?
- _____ *What is the program's mission and philosophy?
- _____ *May I have a copy of your policies?
- _____ *Does this include schedules and fees?
- _____ *Have all staff members been trained in CPR and first aid?
- _____ *How are families involved in the program?
- _____ *Do you have an orientation for new families?
- _____ *Do you offer any financial assistance?
- _____ *Do you serve children with special needs?
- _____ *How does the program support children 's education and learning?

NOTES:

Ask The Staff:

- _____ *What is your system for knowing where my child is at all times?
- _____ *What is your procedure for handling emergencies?
- _____ *How do you handle sick children?
- _____ *Are children able to get a drink or use the bathroom when needed?

NOTES:
